

RUSSIANS IN GALLICIA CAPTURE PRISONERS AND ATTACK POST

Germans in Trenches Know Nothing of Peace Talk Say British.

NUMEROUS AIR BATTLES

Teutonic Front in Belgium and France Same as Last Year.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 20.—British admiralty per wireless press.—Russian troops operating in the region of the river Bystritsa in Galicia, says the Russian official statement issued today broke through the barbed wire entanglements in front of Austro-German advance post yesterday and penetrated into Bohorodezany Stare southwest of Stanislaw. The Teutons are said to have fled in disorder leaving some prisoners in hands of Russians.

With British Army in France—Out of a group of German prisoners taken on a section of British front Sunday, only non-commissioned officer had heard anything of the German Emperor's peace proposal. This circumstance coupled with fact that there had been absolutely no demonstration from any part of the German trenches caused much speculation among the British officers as to whether, despite the Emperor's address to his troops the new peace overtures have been permitted to reach the men actually engaged on the fighting line.

Documents captured within the last few days repeatedly mention the audacity and initiative of the allied air men and Field Marshal von Hindenburg is quoted as having issued orders that the supremacy of the air must be sharply contested. According to these documents the German chief of staff has ordered that where German lines are crossed by hostile aviators, German machines must penetrate an equal distance over the allied line.

There has been only a comparative few hours of good flying weather in the last week but numerous combats have taken place, 20 being fought on one forenoon on a certain sector.

German artillery has recently been quite active and has responded more freely to the continuous fire. According to prisoners, the preponderance of British shell fire has depressed German troops in trenches who thought their own artillery was not supporting them with the same vigor as the support the English gave their men.

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—The military critics of the Over Seas Agency in an article on the situation on the various fronts says:

"In spite of rainy weather and the completely soaked road in eastern Galicia, the Teutonic allies are making rapid progress. The fragments of the Rumanian army are being irresistibly driven into a square which is hardly eighty kilometers wide and bounded by the Danube on the east by the mountains on the west, and the Sereth river on the north. Through this flat district flows the Dniester river. The chances of success for resistance in it are exceedingly small as the river has been crossed on a broad front by the pursuing troops.

"The only large town in this district still in Rumanian hands is Rimnik Sarat. The towns of Braila, Galatz and Fokshani from a strategic and geographic point of view belong to the Sereth position.

"In Dobruja the Russians have been driven by the Bulgarians until they are south of Babadagh. The front of the Central powers now has been shortened about 600 miles which is as much as is considered possible.

"In the western theatre the situation is unchanged except for local engagements. The British advance near Verdun was nothing but a political demonstration and will be unable to exercise any influence upon the general situation.

"The balance of the year of 1916 therefore will not be improved for the French by small local successes. After months of sanguinary fighting and heavy French and English losses, the front in France and Belgium is virtually the same as it was in December, Gen. Berthelot, the French military strategist, has asked to be recalled from the Rumanian front where he has been occupied for some time according to reports received by the Hamburger Fremdenblatt which also says that the majority of the British officers attached to Rumanian general staff have left England.

The newspaper likewise reports a long conference between King Ferdinand of Rumania, and Gen. Alexies of the Russian army, regarding military situation as regards the Rumanian army.

Safe Robbers Get \$20,000 From Bank

TUSLA, Okla., Dec. 20.—Robbers entered the Oklahoma National bank at Skiatook near here today and blew the safe open and escaped with \$20,000 in currency and silver. The robbers had several hours' start on posse formed in Tulsa and Skiatook and telephone and telegraph wires leading into the town had been cut. Skiatook is only five miles from the Osage hills for forty years the rendezvous of outlaws and officials believe the robbers are hiding here.

Twenty Six Below Zero in Nebraska

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 20.—The lowest temperatures of the season were experienced throughout Nebraska today. Valentine, Neb., reported 26 degrees below zero, Norfolk 15 below, and Omaha weather bureau recorded 19 below. Sioux City, Iowa, reported 15 below zero, and Sioux Falls, S. D., 22 below.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS WILL BE FRIDAY

Weeks Holiday Begins With Christmas Celebration in City.

Christmas programs will be observed in the high and the city schools on Friday of this week when the schools close for a period of ten days for the Christmas holidays. The schools will reconvene on January 2. It had been the custom heretofore to give the schools of the city two weeks holidays at the Christmas season, but owing to the fact that the schools were late in starting because of the epidemic of infantile paralysis which was prevalent throughout the country at that time, the Board of Education deemed it wiser to make up a few days at this time rather than run the school so late into the summer.

The senior class of the Fairmont High school will have charge of the Chapel period on Friday morning and the program will be in the nature of a celebration of Christmas.

The ward schools will hold their programs on Friday afternoon and unusual preparations have been made for the entertainment in a number of the schools. At the White school the pupils of the Fifth grade under the direction of their teacher, Miss Louise Leonard, will give a play. The friends and patrons of the schools are cordially invited to any of these entertainments.

Leonard Funeral is Held Today

The funeral of Gerald Leonard, the thirteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Leonard whose death occurred on Monday at his home at Annabelle, took place this afternoon from the Baptist church at Monongah. Services were conducted by Rev. A. L. Lightner, assisted by Rev. R. T. Webb of this city. A large number of relatives and friends attended the funeral services.

Farmers Will Meet Friday Evening

County Agricultural Agent H. L. Smith will preside at a farmers' meeting to be held at Monumental school house Friday evening. The object of the meeting is to organize and plan for demonstration work for next year. Herschel Lee, superintendent of the Fairmont Independent district schools, will be present at the meeting and assist with the work. The meeting will start at 7:30 promptly.

EMBARGO ON WEST BOUND FREIGHT

Congestion at Terminal Points Causes B. & O. to Take Action.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 20.—The Baltimore and Ohio railroad placed an embargo last night against all west bound car load freights from connections west of Cumberland, Md., except perishables, live stock and food stuff for human consumption. The embargo was made necessary, it was said, on account of accumulation of shipments and to prevent serious congestion at terminal points.

Americans May Now Leave Palestine

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 20.—The 200 Americans detained in Syria and Palestine by the Turkish military authorities have been granted permission to leave via Beirut on condition that they intern at Beirut for a month to make valueless any military information they may have.

IS PEACE IN HIS PACK?



MUST QUIT USING CARS FOR SHORTAGE

Railway Men and Big Shippers Say Practice Causes Shortage.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Further means to check practices which have contributed to the shortage of freight cars and general proposals looking to the betterment of the situation were discussed today at meetings of railroad officials and representatives of some of the chief shipping interests. The chief topic was the method under which the abuse of reconignment privilege could be prevented. Under the existing regulation it is possible for speculators to ship cars to their orders, reconsign them upon delivery to other destinations and continue the practice indefinitely, keeping cars in transit awaiting favorable market and virtually using railroads as warehouses instead of carriers. The railroad proposal to enforce penalty of from \$3 to \$7 a car for reconsigning was unanimously opposed by shippers. A plan provides for a \$3 penalty if car be reconsigned in transit, \$5 reconsigned within 24 hours after reaching its destination and \$7 thereafter.

Tariffs embodying proposed penalty are understood to have been prepared for filing with the Interstate Commerce Commission.

LIQUOR DEALERS HOLD DOWN "LID"

Movement for Enforcement of Early Closing Law in England.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The "lid" is being tilted so often by saloonkeepers in England that the liquor dealers themselves, fearing this continued winking at the closing time may advance the interests of prohibition, have launched a movement for a more rigid enforcement of the law. It is proposed that any violations of the regulations will result in the suspension of the license until the end of the year. Another proposal is that a second violation of the law be punished by imprisonment, and that the offender be debarred from further employment in the liquor trade. In Birmingham the liquor interests have organized a vigilant police service of their own to see that the law is not violated.

TO SPEND XMAS IN BROWNSVILLE
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Finley leave tomorrow for Brownsville, Pa., where they will spend Christmas with the latter's father, J. D. Simpson. Mr. Simpson, who will pass his 82nd birthday on Christmas day, has been in ill health for some time.

West Virginian Now Has Private Phone Exchange

A private Bell telephone exchange has been installed in the office of the West Virginian and all the departments in the building are now called over two trunk line numbers. These are 1105 and 1106. Call either of these numbers and tell the operator who is wanted. Numbers on the Consolidation are the same, newspaper, 97; business office, 250.

PAROLES PRISONERS OVER CHRISTMAS

North Carolina "Trustys" in State Institutions to Get Holidays.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 20.—So they may spend Christmas at home "trustys" in North Carolina prisons and prison camps will be paroled for three days beginning Sunday. Such instructions have been issued to state and county prison authorities by Governor Craig.

Convicts will be required only to give word of honor that they will return to prison by noon December 27. Gov. Craig last Christmas paroled more than 800 under similar conditions and all reported to authorities at time designated.

County Suit is Dismissed by Judge

Because no case was ready to be brought before a jury, nothing of importance was done in circuit court this morning. The jury was dismissed until one-thirty this afternoon. At press time no case had been placed before it. The case of Thomas V. Wells against the County Court of Marion county was dismissed in the middle of the trial yesterday on a motion by the plaintiff for a continuance to the next term. The plaintiff alleges he fell over a stone wall into a creek somewhere in the Mannington district and sustained severe injuries.

THE WEATHER
West Virginia—In east rain falling; in west snow in west tonight. Cold in east tonight. Thursday, local snows and colder.
Local Readings, 5 P. M., Dec. 20.
Temperature at 8 A. M. today, 19. Yesterday's weather, clear; temperature, maximum, 24; minimum, 11; precipitation, none.

CHRISTMAS TREE FUND GROWING

Salvation Army Will Distribute Twenty Five Baskets Saturday

The poor children of Fairmont are to have their Christmas tree and the needy families their Christmas baskets, for the public's contribution to the Salvation Army. Santa Claus is holding up day by day and insuring the Army's usual Christmas service. Over \$50 has been contributed to date and heavy offerings are expected for the remaining days of the week.

All classes are giving. This morning a poorly dressed woman, with a large basket on her arm and a stoop in her shoulders, trudged across the street from the ten cent store and dropped a quarter in the pot. A richly dressed woman was next and tossed in a dime. A peep into the pot reveals every coin from coppers to dollar bills.

The Christmas tree will be in the Army headquarters on Jackson street Friday night. Captain Bryant has arranged a special program to be given in connection with the distribution of the gifts. Twenty-five baskets will be distributed Saturday afternoon.

MRS. WATHERWAX IS BURIED TODAY

Funeral Services From M. P. Temple and Interment in Woodlawn.

Funeral services over the body of Mrs. Joseph Watherwax, whose death occurred on Sunday, were held this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the M. P. Temple. Dr. John C. Broomfield, pastor of the church, conducted the services which were attended by a large number of relatives and friends. A quartette from the church rendered several selections and there were many beautiful flowers.

At the conclusion of the services the body was conveyed to Woodlawn cemetery where it was laid to rest. The pallbearers were Messrs. Carl Riggs, Ernest Sherwood, F. P. Kelley, E. C. Frame, J. F. Phillips and Henry Hunsaker.

Among relatives here for the services were Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Mack, of McKeesport, Pa., the latter a daughter of the deceased; Charles Watherwax, of Wilmering, Pa.; Arthur Watherwax, of Beverly, W. Va., sons, and Mrs. Arthur Roberts, of Chilton, Va., the latter a stepdaughter.

CLUB CHRISTMAS DANCE
The executive committee of the Country Club has named Thursday, December 28 as the date for the annual Christmas dance. This will be the stellar attraction at the club during holiday week. Vincent's orchestra will provide the music and an excellent supper will be served.

RUMANIANS FLEE BY THOUSANDS TO RUSS FRONTIER

Caring for Helpless Refugees Big Problem in Southern Russia.

WORST TIME OF YEAR

Resources of Country are Taxed to Provide Food and Clothing.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 20.—The passage across the Russian frontier of thousands of Rumanians who have abandoned their houses and property in the face of invading Germans and Bulgarians has cast the shadow of a new refugee problem on the Russian empire. These refugees have been pouring into Odessa, Kiev, and other southern Russian cities in a destitute and helpless condition and present a problem which threatens to be more difficult than any which has confronted a belligerent power since invasion of Belgium.

Russia has only partly succeeded in colonizing and assimilating the millions of homeless Poles, Jews and members of other races who fled to the interior during the first year and one-half of the war. This is naturally the worst time of the year in which to care for refugees and the economic readjustment which the present political crisis have emphasized adds to the difficulty of the clothing and supporting a new nation.

The magnitude of Russia's economic burden is appreciable when it is considered that the country has received already since the beginning of the war, a refugee population far exceeding the combined citizenship of the Scandinavian countries, while the resources of the country have been taxed to the utmost to provide for wandering people whose homes have fallen within enemy lines and while means of livelihood are either temporarily or permanently forfeited.

Local Mine Victim Widow Gets Pension

STATE COMPENSATION DEPARTMENT WILL PAY OUT \$85,000 FOR CHRISTMAS.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 20.—Arrangements have been made for the distribution of \$85,000 by the Compensation Department today. This will go to 680 widows, 1,300 children, 50 parents and grandparents, 40 persons totally disabled and 700 persons partially disabled. The checks are being sent out earlier than usual this month because of the Christmas season.

Pensions have been issued to five widows and a number of children by the Workmen's Compensation Department, according to a report made public today by Commissioner Lee Ott. The beneficiaries are: Kathleen Higginbotham and child, Fairmont, \$25 a month; Virginia McCutcheon and two children, Blue Creek, \$30 a month; Sarah M. Baker and two children, Tams, \$30 a month; Jessie Jones and three children, Brynside, \$35 a month; Margaret Kleiman and three children, Big Sandy, \$35 a month.

George Campbell Dies at Parkersburg

News has been received in this city of the death of George Q. Campbell for several months a resident of this city and a cousin of M. D. Christie, which occurred at his home in Parkersburg from injuries received in a fall the previous week, when he tripped and fell down stairs.

Mr. Campbell was several months a clerk at the Watson hotel and at the time of his death was employed in the Blannenhassett hotel in Parkersburg. He was aged 58 years, and is survived by his wife, two sisters, Mrs. W. P. Flaherty, of Parkersburg, and Sister Philomena, at Mt. De Chantal Academy, and one brother, Frank Campbell, of Los Angeles, Cal. A half brother, Dr. J. E. Campbell, of Wheeling, also survives.

Funeral services were held from St. Xavier's Catholic church on Tuesday.

One Killed in Georgia Wreck

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 20.—One passenger was killed and several persons were injured when the Seminole limited from Jacksonville for Chicago running on Central of Georgia railroad track was derailed today nine miles from Okefenokee.

The dead man is C. B. Kirkpatrick of Indiana. Six cars overturned and were thrown down the embankment. The accident was due it is said to a broken rail.

HOSPITAL WORK WILL GO ON IN OLD BUILDING

Nurses are Being Moved From Dormitory to a Nearby House.

PATIENTS DOING WELL

Insurance Adjusters Expected to Fix Damage of Fire Today.

The patients who were rescued from the Cook hospital fire are being cared for today at the Miners hospital and various private residences to which they were taken. The committee in charge of preparing the Nurses' dormitory, for use as a temporary hospital during the three months that it will likely take to repair and rework the damaged building, are working hard today and it is likely that all of the nurses' quarters will have been moved to the Shrewsbury Miller house nearby this evening. This property has been rented for the nurses' use by the committee and the hospital work will be carried on in the dormitory.

This building is particularly well fitted for use as a hospital having been recently been entirely renovated and thoroughly cleaned by the efforts of the Woman's Committee. The building contains an operating room and was formerly the Cook hospital.

Dr. Cook while at the head of the hospital used this building for several years as the hospital, it having been built for that purpose when the original Cook hospital on Walnut avenue near Fifth street became too small for the accommodation of the patients. When the new hospital, in which the fire occurred, was built Dr. Cook moved the patients to it and the old building was fitted up as a nurses' dormitory. This last move was made but a short time before the death of Dr. Cook.

The committee of hospital supporters who are working for the rebuilding of the structure were expecting the arrival of insurance adjusters this afternoon to examine the building and fix the amount of the damage that will be paid. As soon as this is determined the work of rebuilding will be started.

All the water in the damaged building had been drained today and much of the debris had been removed. Fires are now burning in the rooms and the walls will be dried out within a few days.

WORTHINGTON GIRL SEVERELY BURNED

Miss Pearl Gray is Seriously Injured When Clothing Burns.

Miss Pearl Gray the sixteen-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Gray, residing near Worthington, was seriously burned about 2:30 Tuesday afternoon. She was engaged in measuring a younger sister for a new dress when her clothing was ignited from the fire in the open grate before which she was standing.

She was badly burned about the body and her father was severely burned in his efforts to extinguish the flames. The flames were communicated from the clothing to a bed and the room was on fire but the flames were extinguished before much damage was done. Dr. W. W. Orr was called and rendered all aid possible to alleviate sufferings.

CHRISTMAS FURS

Men who are playing Santa Claus will find thousands of dollars worth of fine new furs in a special Christmas showing today.

AT HARTLEY'S

FARM FOR SALE.

67 acres, house and barn, five miles from Grafton. Buyer names the price. See J. Gay Allender, Grafton, W. Va.

SHEFFIELD PLATE

The kind that will resist wear. In Vegetable dishes, platters, trays and baskets at

SCOTT'S